

the rest of the family and the public in general. Miss Thomas seemed to feel so keenly the failure in the purpose of the government to do this latter. 'Tis true that a beautiful sanitarium has been built in the Province for the care of tubercular patients in the incipient stages of the disease, and also true that the cost of only eight dollars a week seems almost a nominal one; but so far as this class of people is concerned (and these are the very ones through whose ignorance and poverty the spread of disease is most certain) eight dollars might as well be fifty dollars in the face of a three dollar per week income.

This picture will stay long by me—the unconscious mother, the fretful, peevish baby, the querulous old grandmother, and the utter inability on their part to grasp the help that a seemingly kind government held just beyond reach.

Our next and last visit had nothing of the disagreeable in it and something of the picturesque. This home, for home it was, was in an old music hall from which the once splendid pipe-organ had never been removed. The hall was divided by means of a calico curtain into two rooms, and the organ, or at least the back of it, served as wardrobe, pantry, and closet-room in general. I am afraid I cannot tell you much about this case or "Tommy's" treatment of it, but this latter must have been satisfactory to judge from the sighs of relief that came to me from behind the calico curtain; then the baby's gums must be looked at and we must know that John's salary had been increased to seven dollars a week and that they were very happy. And so we returned to our comfortable quarters and to the realization that "better is a dinner of herbs and contentment therewith, etc."

Miss Thomas is only one of the many of this order whose daily visits to the poor bring comfort out of misery and order out of chaos, and for themselves get but little more than the knowledge that daily burdens are being lifted, hearts cheered, and the fight against dirt, disease, and destitution waged to a satisfactory end.

To-morrow we move on to Wolfville and thence to Canard, from which place I will write you of the fruit exhibit.

NANCY.

---

DEAR EDITOR: It was with great interest that I read the article entitled "Untrained *versus* Trained Nurses" published in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL for April. The difficulty which the nurse with a purely hospital training finds at first in adapting herself to the very different conditions found in private nursing is natural and almost inevitable. It seems a pity, however, that after giving three or four years to her training she should have to work at low rates for one or two years longer. Might

it not, moreover, be hard for her to raise her price when once it had become known to the doctors and patients for whom she worked?

“That with the increase of training-schools and nurses, competition has arisen” cannot be denied. It is the natural course of events, and if with the increase “the supply is fast becoming greater than the demand,” the same is true of the medical and all other professions. It is also undeniably true that “all women trained in the same school are not equally skilled,” for the inborn characteristics of a nurse count for as much, if not more, than the training. As in all other paths of life, the capable will come to the top and the incompetent remain by the wayside, and these incompetent nurses, if they are to get work at all, will have to work for less wages. Such nurses, however, should not be those to supply “the demand for nurses for the great well-to-do middle class,” which certainly exists. This class should not be obliged to depend upon poor nurses.

Why, then, I would ask, may not the problem of the trained nurse learning adaptability and the problem of providing a supply of moderate-priced nurses be at once solved by the sending of student nurses on private cases at moderate prices after two years or more of training? The nurse would then have an opportunity to learn adaptability during her course and not be obliged to work for low wages after graduation, while an increasing supply of trained nurses at a moderate price would be made available to the public.

A WALTHAM GRADUATE.

---

[LETTERS to the editor must be accompanied by the name in full and address of the writer, otherwise such communications cannot be recognized. The name need not appear in the JOURNAL unless so desired.—ED.]



ECZEMA IN CHILDREN.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association* says: “In the treatment of infantile eczema F. J. Poynton, in the London *Clinical Journal*, states that the treatment must be both local and general. The diet may require revision, such as limiting the amount of sugar or starch in infants and the withholding of cakes, jams, and sweets from older children. The author mentions the compressed and manufactured foods only to condemn them. If the eczema is acute, and the child highly fed, meat is best withdrawn from the diet. On the other hand, if the child is anaemic, weak, and poorly fed, a diet of plain meat, eggs, milk, milk puddings, and fish is advisable. Careful management of the bowels is of prime importance, and small doses of sulphate of magnesia may be of great service.”